

was watching the news and I saw the President with the Prime Minister having a press conference in England and the President, in his comments, indicated that we are in a war and we're going to be all together to win this war in Libya.

As far as I know, the Congress of the United States has not declared war. We have not been really consulted about Libya. Yet we're spending probably a couple billion dollars over there right now. And with the President's remarks, you might wonder if we're going to have boots on the ground and be involved not only in the Middle East but now over in Libya. We don't have the money to do that nor has Congress been consulted.

Section 3 of the War Powers Act says: "The President in every possible instance shall consult with Congress before introducing United States Armed Forces into hostilities." He "shall."

He didn't. And we ought to be very concerned about that, whether we're Democrats or Republicans.

The power to go to war must be vested in the Congress of the United States. Not just the President but the Congress. He is not a king; he's a President. And we must make sure that Congress is involved in the decision-making process.

□ 1220

REPUBLICANS' ROAD TO RUIN BUDGET

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, the "Road to Ruin" Republican budget will end Medicare. It will end a program that 46 million seniors and disabled individuals depend on for their health care. In fact, the end of Medicare will mean seniors are forced to pay more for prescription drugs, they will lose free wellness visits, and they will be forced to pay more out of pocket. In fact, the Republican plan will cause seniors to dip into their pockets twice as deeply as they do today by the year 2020 and three times more by 2030.

And what do we get with the end of Medicare? Where are these funds directed? To continue tax breaks for Big Oil, to continue loopholes for corporations that ship jobs overseas, and to provide tax breaks for the wealthiest amongst us—those who need them least.

Mr. Speaker, Americans oppose the efforts to end Medicare. I ask my colleagues to work with us to strengthen the program, not destroy it.

MEDICARE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on this floor a number of my

Democratic colleagues took the floor to talk about the Republican plan to eliminate Medicare as we know it. Now, in response to that, some of my Republican friends stood up and said, well, where is the Democratic plan? I don't know whether they were sleeping through the 111th Congress or just failed to read the bill that they voted against and now want to repeal, but our Democratic principles were very much reflected in the Affordable Care Act that we passed in the last Congress. We found savings in Medicare, we extended the life of the program for at least 10 years, we are closing the doughnut hole, we are providing new services for seniors, all of that in addition to saving \$1 trillion in the second 10 years of the program.

So the Democrats have a plan for Medicare, and we passed it in the last Congress. The Republican response: repeal what we did and end Medicare as we know it—a very creative approach to solving one of the problems that faces this country and many of our seniors.

MEDICARE

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, first I want to echo the words of my colleague from Colorado, MIKE COFFMAN, in expressing our sympathies to the families of Corporal Kirton from Centennial, Colorado, who died this past week in combat. That is a loss to Colorado, that is a loss to the Nation, and we just express our sympathies.

I want to really turn to a big issue at hand, and that is over the last 10 years starting with Bill Clinton, we had a surplus, revenues exceeded expenses. But after the Bush tax cuts, which cost a trillion dollars or more, two wars which cost a trillion dollars or more and collapse of Wall Street a couple trillion dollars, that budget surplus was turned upside down. But instead of focusing on the tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires or tax cuts for the oil companies, the Republicans want to take money out of Medicare to try to get the budget right. Well, that's just going the wrong direction.

Under the Republican budget even \$100 a barrel, we are going to maintain those tax cuts for oil companies? Instead we're going to stop programs under Medicare? That's just wrong. Medicare is a program that has worked for this country for a long time, and I want to see it remain in place.

WITNESS BADGERED AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked yesterday at the exchange that occurred between our colleague

from North Carolina, PATRICK MCHENRY, and Elizabeth Warren, the woman who has been tasked by President Obama to establish the new Consumer Financial Protections Bureau.

You know, to have a woman of impeccable academic credentials, a woman who for years predicted what was going to happen, had a potential solution, and who has been adamant in her support for trying to unwind this mess, to have her being attacked, to have her at one point being accused of somehow doing too much to communicate with Attorneys General who are trying to get a fair shake for homeowners who have been cheated, speaks volumes—not just, sadly, about the Republican chair of the subcommittee, but about the Republican approach.

For heaven's sake, they shouldn't be blocking her nomination. They should be embracing it and working with us to make sure it never happens again.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 276 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 276

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order.

SEC. 2. (a) It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.